

OBITUARY

Obituaries of any doctors will be considered for publication provided that the doctors have worked in the United Kingdom for a large part of their career. Obituaries must be submitted exclusively to the BMJ and should be up to about 400 words long. "Self written" obituaries are welcome.

W E ALDERSON BM, BCH

Dr W E Alderson, formerly senior consultant dermatologist to the Bradford hospitals, died suddenly on 12 March aged 72.

William (Bill) Edward Alderson was born in Warwickshire and educated at King Edward



School, Nuneaton, and Oxford University and King's College Hospital, graduating in medicine in 1940. After appointments at King's College Hospital he served for five years in the Royal Army Medical Corps. Demobilised with the rank of major in 1946, he returned to King's College

Hospital as registrar in dermatology. He was appointed assistant dermatologist to Bradford Royal Infirmary and St Luke's Hospital in 1947 and full consultant in 1952. He was also consultant at Otley and Skipton General Hospitals.

Always approachable, Bill was friendly and compassionate towards his patients and appreciated the help of the old hospital almoner service; his opinion was widely sought by his colleagues. He had a quiet, almost reticent manner, which often disguised an impish sense of humour.

A former vice president of the North of England Dermatological Society, Bill took an active part in BMA affairs and was chairman of the Bradford Division in 1963-4 as well as secretary for a short time, and was previously secretary of Bradford Medico-Chirurgical Society. He was surgeon and later president of the Bradford corps of the St John Ambulance Brigade and was awarded the rank of serving brother of the Order of St John. Largely instrumental in founding the National Health Service retirement fellowship in Bradford, he was its first chairman and founded a similar organisation for the St John Ambulance Brigade. He accumulated a library of superb slides of skin conditions and with Dr Max Foy, of the school of pharmacy at Bradford University, made a series of audiovisual presentations for the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. This work was recognised by the university in 1983, when he was awarded an honorary DSc.

Bill had many interests outside medicine and was a former president of Shipley Rotary Club and of the Bradford branch of the Royal Society of St George. A magistrate since 1961, he was chairman of the bench in 1979. His main leisure interest was history associated with old buildings and churches, and he developed a series of lectures illustrated by slides. A few months before his death he completed an illustrated monograph on Sir Titus Salt and Saltaire, but, sadly, he did not live to see it

published. A skilled glass engraver, he also enjoyed drawing and pottering in the garden. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, whom he married in 1940. There were no children.—JWR.

B BURBIDGE MB, BS

Dr B Burbidge, who was a general practitioner for 25 years in the Pyle, Kenfig Hill, and north Cornelly districts of Mid-Glamorgan, died at his home on 1 June after a short but distressing illness. He was 51.

Brian Burbidge came from a family that extended back many generations in the area in which he later practised, and he was devoted to the area and its people. Educated at Bridgend Boy's County School, where in 1953 he won the Rankin scholarship, he graduated in medicine from St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School in 1959. Hospital jobs followed in London and Morriston, West Glamorgan, but it was not long before he was back in practice in his native area.

Brian was unstinting in his support of local organisations, being among other things a serving brother of the St John Ambulance Brigade, a governor of the local comprehensive school, and an enthusiastic chairman of the gardening club. Gardening and following rugby football were his twin delights. Essentially a family man, in public he seemed to be a very private man who moved quietly and courteously through life. He was conscientious to a fault, and the maintenance of high clinical standards and an all embracing humanity dominated his professional thinking. He is survived by his wife, Marie, and two sons and a daughter.—GWC.

H B McNAMEE FRCPED, FRCPsych, DPM

Dr H B McNamee, consultant psychiatrist at Ravenscraig Hospital, Greenock, died at his home in Kilmacoll on 23 May. He was 50.

Hugh Brian McNamee was educated in Glasgow and graduated MB, ChB at the University of Glasgow in 1960. After house officer posts in Glasgow and Edinburgh he held appointments as senior house officer, registrar, and senior registrar at the Maudsley Hospital and Institute of Psychiatry, London, until 1966. He then spent over a year as a teaching fellow in the department of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, and as clinical fellow, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston. On returning to the United Kingdom he had a further spell at the Maudsley before being appointed senior lecturer at the University of Dundee and consultant psychiatrist to the Dundee General and Mental Hospitals. In 1969 he again crossed the Atlantic, on this occasion working as physician in charge of the psychiatric consultation and liaison service at Kingston General Hospital and assistant professor at Queen's University,

Kingston, Ontario; he held these posts until 1972, when he became assistant professor at the department of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. When he finally returned to the United Kingdom in 1975 he was appointed consultant psychiatrist based at Ravenscraig Hospital in Greenock.

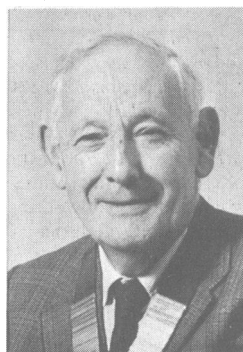
Brian maintained an interest in research throughout his career. He wrote widely, often with coauthors from other disciplines, on many topics but principally on affective disorders, alcohol and drug abuse, and, more recently, neurotransmitter biochemistry. In addition to his general duties he was an enthusiastic clinical tutor at Ravenscraig.

Brian was a quiet and, indeed, a private man. He found most of his pleasures at home with the family and in his garden. He enjoyed his regular holidays in Argyll, a part of the country he loved greatly and that afforded him every opportunity to indulge in his favourite pastime of walking. He is survived by his wife, Rosemary, and his son, Shaun, to both of whom he was devoted.—JM.

D J DAVIES MBE, MD, FFCM, DPH

Dr D J Davies, formerly a community physician to Pembrokeshire Health Authority, died on 22 April in Mansfield aged 72.

David Joseph Davies (DJ) was educated at Bargoed Secondary School, where his father was



headmaster. He began his medical education at the University College of South Wales in 1930; after obtaining a BSc he moved to University College Hospital, London, for his clinical years and graduated in 1936 with degrees from both the University of Wales and the University of London. He was

awarded the MBE in 1944 for distinguished military service during the Italian campaign: responsible for a field hygiene section, he played a valuable part in controlling a civilian epidemic of typhus in Naples. Having shown an early interest in infectious diseases and epidemiology, he was appointed medical officer of health for the borough of Port Talbot in 1947 and then to Llanelli in 1952. In 1953 he was appointed county medical officer of Pembrokeshire. He remained in this post until the reorganisation of the health service in 1974, when he was appointed district community physician for Pembrokeshire; he continued to work full time until last May, when he retired at the age of 72.

DJ was a quiet, gracious man who gave a lifetime of public service. He was particularly proud of his work to develop local services for the mentally handicapped, but the control of infectious disease

and the epidemiology of disease were his special interests. In 1974 he negotiated the move from the traditional practice of public health to the new style community medicine with great ease. This was perhaps to be expected given his wide range of interests and depth of knowledge in the specialty, allied to a most active and inquiring mind that was always ready to challenge conventions and attitudes not based on fact. An active member of the BMA, having been president of the South West Wales division in 1980-1, he also helped with the St John Ambulance Brigade, being a commander in the order.

The death of DJ's wife, Betty, in 1977 created a void in his life that was never filled. He is survived by two brothers, one of whom is a general practitioner in Cardiff; three children, one of whom, Dr Gillian Todd, is district general manager of Central Nottinghamshire Health Authority; and eight grandchildren.—GBT.

M H SOUTHALL

MB, BS, DCH, DOBSTRICOG

Dr M H Southall, a general practitioner in Minster, Thanet, died in hospital on 14 June aged 61.

Martin Henry Southall was born in Rochester in 1925 and was educated at Sidcot School and University College Hospital, London, where he graduated in medicine in 1949. After hospital appointments at University College Hospital he served with the United Nations in Palestine for a year. Further hospital appointments followed in Brighton and Plymouth. After two and a half years in a busy practice in Havant, in 1961 he took over a singlehanded country practice in Minster, to which he gave outstanding effort for the rest of his life. He built the practice up to a thriving three man unit and for most of the time also worked in the casualty department of Ramsgate Hospital. He was for 10 years a trainer in practice, which gave him great pleasure.

Henry Southall gave unstintingly of his spare time to local medical administration, serving on the district management team and for the last two years on the district health authority, where his calm presence and steady endeavour were greatly appreciated. In 1982-3 he served as chairman of the East Kent division of the BMA. He was also a governor of Thanet Technical College for six years.

Henry was much involved in village activities, serving as chairman of the local civic society from its foundation and as president of the dramatic society. His other great interest was sailing, and he was never happier than when sailing in, or working on, his yacht in the company of family and friends. He is survived by his wife, Sally, three sons, and one daughter.—WJS.

J KNOX

FRCP, FRCPGLAS, FRCPED

Dr J Knox, consultant physician at Raigmore Hospital, died on 20 June at his home in Inverness.

John Knox was born on 6 December 1926. Educated at Hamilton Academy, he graduated MB, ChB from Glasgow University in 1949. Before being appointed consultant physician and geriatrician to Aberdeen General Hospitals in 1958 he held appointments as senior medical registrar in Aberdeen and assistant lecturer in materia medica and therapeutics in the University of Glasgow. He was appointed consultant physician to the Northern Regional Hospital Board based at Inverness in 1962 and continued to give devoted service to the highlands for the rest of his life.

John Knox was a good physician in every sense of the word and was elected a fellow of all three

colleges of physicians in the United Kingdom. Although he left Aberdeen for Inverness and was a Glasgow graduate, he retained a close liaison with and affection for his second alma mater and played a leading part in bringing Aberdeen undergraduates to Inverness. He was a clinical senior lecturer in medicine at Aberdeen University and a member of the editorial board of the *Aberdeen Medical Journal*. He was throughout his life an eager postgraduate student, making considerable efforts to widen his knowledge and enlarge his experience.

John married Dr Marion Aitken, a fellow graduate of his year, who died in 1984. They had two sons, David and Graeme, who survive them. In 1987 he married Dr Fiona MacLennan, a consultant radiologist at Aberdeen, who nursed him devotedly during his final illness.

In spite of a busy professional life John was first of all a family man; outwith the family circle he was a Scout commissioner, an elder of the church for many years, a keen Rotarian, and a generous and kindly host.—ARM.

G T G THOMAS

MB, BCHIR, FRCP

Dr G T G Thomas, formerly a consultant physician in the east Berkshire district, died on 27 May aged 71.

Gerald Trevor Griffith Thomas received his medical training at Cambridge and Guy's Hospital,



graduating in 1940. After working as a registrar at Guy's he served in the Royal Air Force medical service from 1945 to 1947. Early in his career he had developed an interest in cardiology, and on leaving the RAF he was appointed a senior registrar at the National Heart Hospital, where,

like so many young cardiologists of his generation, he came under the influence of Evan Bedford and Paul Wood. It was with their support that in 1949 he was appointed physician to the Medical Research Council's rheumatism research unit at the Canadian Red Cross Memorial Hospital at Taplow. At that time acute rheumatism and acute rheumatic heart disease in children were the major interests of this outstanding unit. His contribution to the work of the unit was largely in cardiology, and he gained wide respect as a clinical cardiologist who was scrupulous in eliciting and interpreting physical signs at a time when this depended on the discipline of inspection, palpation, percussion, and auscultation with corroborative evidence provided by electrocardiography and chest radiography.

When the incidence of acute rheumatism declined Gerald Thomas was appointed consultant physician and cardiologist to the Windsor group of hospitals (later the east Berkshire district), but he still retained his association with the MRC unit. In this capacity he accepted all the responsibilities of a general physician, but cardiology remained his major interest and his opinion was particularly valued by the general practitioners in the district. He was in great demand for domiciliary consultations and practical advice. Many junior medical staff were inspired by his enthusiastic teaching of the art of clinical cardiology, and although he found it hard to come to terms with all the new

technology, he was never too proud to refer his patients elsewhere for further investigations.

After his retirement Gerald moved to Cornwall, where he made many friends and despite a serious illness two years ago continued to undertake locum consultant work until shortly before his death. He is survived by a son and two daughters from his first marriage and by his wife, Patsy.—JL.

W J TWIBILL

MCHORTH, FRCSI

Mr W J Twibill, consultant orthopaedic surgeon to Hartlepool and North and South Teesside District Health Authorities, died suddenly on 6 June aged 61.

William (Bill) Joseph Twibill was born at Lucan, near Dublin, where he was educated at Belvedere College. He qualified in medicine at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, and after registrar posts at Leith Infirmary, Jervis Street, and Navan, where he became an expert in the transthoracic approach to tuberculosis of the spine, he completed his orthopaedic training at Sefton General and Alder Hey Children's Hospitals, Liverpool. In 1965 he was appointed consultant orthopaedic surgeon to the Hartlepool and North Tees districts. With the closure of Sedgfield General Hospital in 1974 he became the senior at Hartlepool, retaining a connection with Teesside hospitals, in the care of children with cerebral palsy.

With his early background of a rural life Bill's particular care for the handicapped children of Cleveland included strong support for Riding for the Disabled, which was acknowledged, to his pride, by his being presented to the Queen in 1986. His predominantly outdoor interests included acting as medical officer to Redcar racecourse and to the south Durham hunt, and following the local beagles on foot. In latter years he travelled widely, visiting friends and colleagues in Madrid and Cyprus and, this year, the United States.

With a superficially gruff initial approach that was quickly seen to be caring, Bill was that rare person who made no enemies. Highly popular with his patients and colleagues, he had a wide circle of friends. He is survived by his wife, Madeleine, and son, William.—WE.

D MAGRATH

OBE, MB, CHB, DPH, DPM

ECS writes: Wakayama prisoner of war camp was on the main island of Honshu, a few miles from the sea. It received about 480 supposedly fit men from Java via Singapore in the autumn of 1943. Work was in a neighbouring factory, and soon exhausted men were being carried back to the camp by their comrades. The commandant's view was that illness was due to a bad spirit in the men concerned, and regulations allowed only half a dozen men to be off work. Men were dying at the rate of one or two a week. Dr Magrath (obituary, 4 July, p 58) persisted in making out a case for lighter work for sick men, and this was finally granted. At a time when survival seemed uncertain and morale was under threat his example and his genuine care for others had a steadying effect on all. And then he was taken away from the camp. Months later I heard a sound unknown for years: men cheering. This was in a situation when to step out of line was to court a beating from the guards. I looked towards the gates and saw that Dr Magrath had entered, marching between two Japanese guards, head high, arms swinging. The cheering was a spontaneous tribute to his goodness, courage, and integrity.